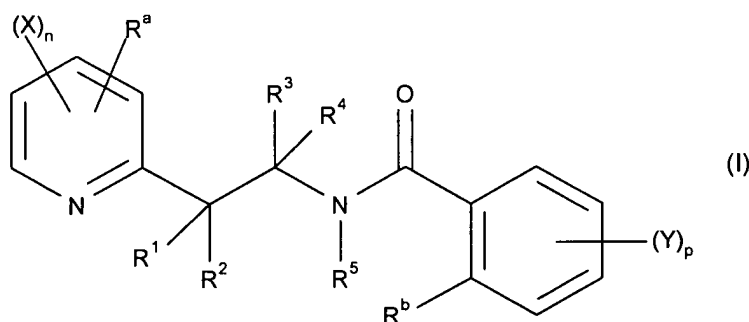


**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of general formula (I):



in which:

n is 1, 2, or 3;

p is 1, 2, 3 or 4;

$R^a$  is a  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms;

each substituent X is ~~chosen~~, independently of the others, ~~as being~~ selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl ~~or~~ and a  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -halogenoalkyl;

$R^1$  and  $R^2$  are ~~chosen~~ independently selected from the group consisting of ~~each other as being~~ a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a hydroxy group, an amino group, a sulfanyl group, a formyl group, a formyloxy group, a formylamino group, a carboxy group, a

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carbamoyl group, a N-hydroxycarbamoyl group, a carbamate group, a (hydroxyimino)-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl group, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkenyl, a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkynyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylamino, a di-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylamino, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkoxy, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkoxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylsulfanyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkylsulfanyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkenyloxy, a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkenyloxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkynyloxy, a C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkynyloxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-cycloalkyl, a C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenocycloalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylcarbonyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkylcarbonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylcarbamoyl, a di-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylcarbamoyl, a N-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyloxycarbamoyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkoxycarbamoyl, a N-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkoxycarbamoyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkoxycarbonyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkoxycarbonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylcarbonyloxy, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkylcarbonyloxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylcarbonylamino, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkylcarbonylamino having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylaminocarbonyloxy, a di-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylaminocarbonyloxy, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyloxycarbonyloxy, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylsulphenyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkylsulphenyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylsulphinyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkylsulphinyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylsulphonyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkylsulphonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a benzyl, a benzyloxy, a benzylsulfanyl, a benzylsulfinyl, a benzylsulfonyl, a benzylamino, a phenoxy, a phenylsulfanyl, a phenylsulfinyl, a phenylsulfonyl, a phenylamino, a

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phenylcarbonylamino, a 2,6 dichlorophenyl-carbonylamino group or a phenyl group; or R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> may form together a cyclopropyl, a cyclobutyl, a cyclopentyl or a cyclohexyl;

R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are chosen independently of each other as being selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a cyano group, ~~a hydroxy group, an amino group, a sulfanyl group, a formyl group, a carboxy group, a carbamoyl group, a N-hydroxycarbamoyl group, a carbamate group, a (hydroxyimino)-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl group, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkenyl, a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkynyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylamino, a di-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylamino, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkoxy, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkoxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylsulfanyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkylsulfanyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkenyloxy, a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkenyloxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkynyloxy, a C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkynyloxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-cycloalkyl, a C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenocycloalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylearbonyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkylearbonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a N-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyloxy carbamoyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkoxy carbamoyl, a N-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkoxy carbamoyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkoxy carbonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylearbonyloxy, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkylearbonyloxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylcarbonylamino, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkylearbonylamino having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylaminocarbonyloxy, a di-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylaminocarbonyloxy, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyloxy carbonyloxy, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylsulphenyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkylsulphenyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylsulphinyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkylsulphinyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylsulphonyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkylsulphonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a~~

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~~benzyl, a benzyloxy, a benzylsulfanyl, a benzylsulfinyl, a benzylsulfonyl, a benzylamino, a phenoxy, a phenylsulfanyl, a phenylsulfinyl, a phenylsulfonyl, a phenylamino, a phenylcarbonylamino, a 2,6-dichlorophenyl-carbonylamino group or and~~ a phenyl group;

with the proviso that when three of the four substituents R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are a hydrogen atom, then the fourth substituent is not a hydrogen atom;

R<sup>5</sup> is ~~chosen as being~~ selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, a formyl group, a hydroxy group, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkoxy, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkoxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenocycloalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkenyl, a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkynyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkoxy-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-cyanoalkyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-aminoalkyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylamino-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, a di-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylamino-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylcarbonyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkylcarbonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyloxycarbonyl, a C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>-cycloalkyl, a C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>-halogenocycloalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>-cycloalkyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-benzyloxycarbonyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkoxy-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylcarbonyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylsulfonyl ~~or and~~ a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkylsulfonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms;

each substituent Y is the same or different and is independently selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a nitro group, a cyano group, a hydroxy group, an amino group, a sulfanyl group, a pentafluoro-□<sup>6</sup>-sulfanyl group, a formyl group, a formyloxy group, a formylamino group, a carboxy group, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkenyl, a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkynyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkylamino, a di-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkylamino, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkoxy, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-halogenoalkoxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a

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C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkoxy-C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkenyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkylsulfanyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-halogenoalkylsulfanyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkoxycarbonyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-halogenoalkoxycarbonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkylcarbonyloxy, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-halogenoalkylcarbonyloxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkylsulphenyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-halogenoalkylsulphenyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkylsulphinyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-halogenoalkylsulphinyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkylsulphonyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-halogenoalkylsulphonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms ~~or~~ and a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkylsulfonamide; and

R<sup>b</sup> is selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a nitro group, a cyano group, an amino group, a sulfanyl group, a pentafluoro- $\lambda^6$ -sulfanyl group, a formyl group, a formyloxy group, a formylamino group, a carboxy group, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkenyl, a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkynyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylamino, a di-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylamino, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkoxy, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkoxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkoxy-C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkenyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylsulfanyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkylsulfanyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkoxycarbonyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkoxycarbonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylcarbonyloxy, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkylcarbonyloxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylsulphenyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkylsulphenyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylsulphinyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkylsulphinyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylsulphonyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkylsulphonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms ~~or~~ and a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylsulfonamide;

as well as its salts, ~~N-oxides~~ N-oxides, metallic complexes, metalloidic complexes and optically active isomers.

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2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound ~~according to~~ of claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~  
wherein n is 1 or 2.
3. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound ~~according to~~ of claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~  
wherein X is a halogen atom.
4. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound ~~according to~~ of claim 3, ~~characterised in that~~  
wherein X is chlorine.
5. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound ~~according to~~ of claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~  
wherein R<sup>a</sup> is -CF<sub>3</sub>.
6. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound ~~according to~~ of claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~  
wherein the 2-pyridyl is substituted in the 3- and/or in the 5-position.
7. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound ~~according to~~ of claim 6, ~~characterised in that~~  
wherein the 2-pyridyl is substituted in the 3-position by X and in the 5-position by R<sup>a</sup>.
8. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound ~~according to~~ of claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~  
wherein the 2-pyridyl is substituted in the 3-position by -Cl and in the 5-position by -CF<sub>3</sub>.

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9. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound according to ~~of~~ claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~  
wherein R<sup>b</sup> is selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, a  
C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkoxy or a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound according to ~~of~~ claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~  
wherein p is 1.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound according to ~~of~~ claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~  
wherein each substituent Y is independently selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen  
atom, a halogen atom ~~or~~ and a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound according to, ~~of~~ claim 1 ~~characterised in that~~  
wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are chosen; independently of each other, as being selected from the group  
consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a hydroxy group, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, a  
C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkenyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkoxy, a  
C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylsulfanyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylsulfenyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylsulfinyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkoxycarbonyl, a  
C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylcarbonylamino, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkoxycarbonyloxy, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkoxycarbonylamino or a  
phenyl group.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound according to ~~of~~ claim 12, ~~characterised in that~~  
wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are chosen; independently of each other, as being selected from the group

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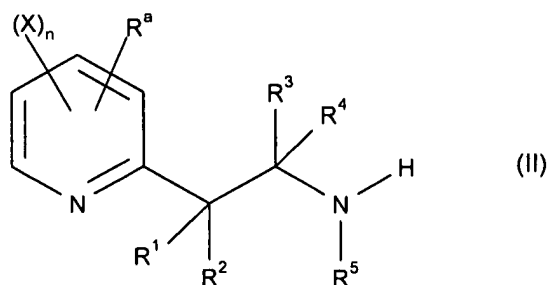
consisting of a halogen atom, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylcarbonylamino.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound according to of claim 14, characterised in that 1  
wherein R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are chosen, independently of each other, as being selected from the group  
consisting of a halogen atom, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms  
~~or~~ and a phenyl group.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound according to of claim 1, characterised in that  
wherein R<sup>5</sup> is a hydrogen atom or a C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>-cycloalkyl.

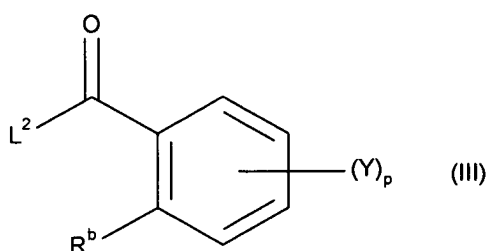
17. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of general formula (I) as defined in claim 1, which comprises reacting a 2-pyridine derivative of general formula (II) or one of its ~~salt~~ salts:



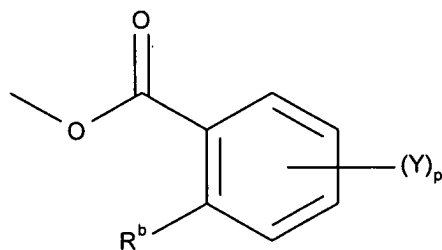


wherein  $R^5$  is hydrogen,

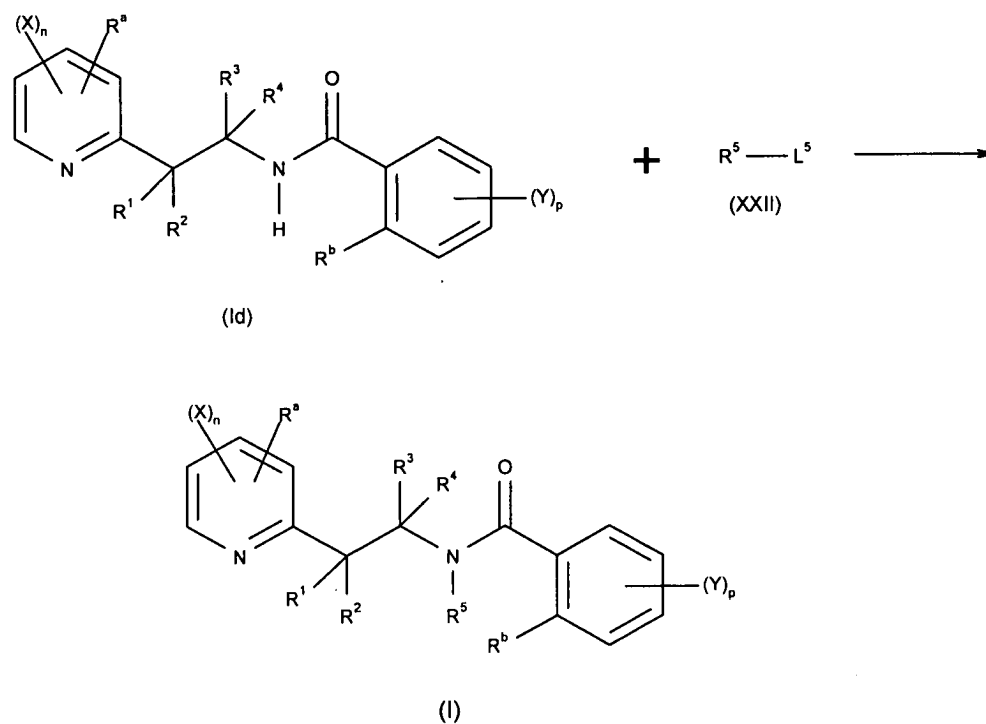
with a carboxylic acid derivative of the general formula (III)



in which:  $L^2$  is a leaving group ~~chosen as being~~ selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group,  $-OR^6$ ,  $-OCOR^6$ ,  $R^6$  being a  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl, a  $C_1$ - $C_6$  haloalkyl, a benzyl, 4-methoxybenzyl, pentafluorophenyl, and ~~or~~ a group of the formula



in the presence of a catalyst and, if  $L^2$  is a hydroxyl group, in the presence of a condensing agent; then completing the process by a step according to the following reaction scheme:



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in which:  $L^5$  is a leaving group chosen as being a halogen atom, a 4-methyl phenylsulfonyloxy or a methylsulfonyloxy;  
comprising the reaction of a compound of general formula (Id) with a compound of general formula (XXII) to provide a compound of general formula (I).

18 -20. (Canceled)